

SPECIFICATION

A replacement specification is on pages 4-16. A clean copy of the replacement specification is on pages 17-25. No new matter has been added.

Patent Application of
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SPECIFICATION

TITLE OF INVENTION:

~~ADJUSTABLE HANGING SPORTS EQUIPMENT HOLDER AND
DISPENSER.~~

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION:

U.S. Pat No. 5,813,550

U.S. Pat No. 5,335,794

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

~~Sporting equipment can create an undesirable mess if not kept neatly organized. The task of organizing sports equipment in ones home can be a very challenging one. At home, a closet is often used to store basketballs or footballs. Consequently, the contents of the closet becomes a hazard as the basketball, football and other contents spill out of the closet when the door is opened. An adjustable elevated device for storing sports balls, whether at home, or in your garage, would serve to prevent tripping or related accidents as well as provide a more organized and efficient manner of storage.~~

~~In an effort to address the need for a more efficient storage of sports-related balls, particularly, a number of equipment racks have been developed. These inventions focus on support devices in which the sports equipment is placed on the rack. The device is then dependent on gravity to keep the balls in place; if the ball or device is jarred the ball easily falls off. These inventions do not provide a secure holding device for a ball.~~

~~U.S. Pat No. 5,813,550 describes a storage rack with threaded pegs. It includes a compact base with two or more pairs of peg holes and two or more pegs that may be inserted into a second pair of holes. While this invention provides a means for storing various items, it does not address the need for storing basketballs, footballs and the like.~~

~~Likewise, U.S. Pat No. 5,335,794 describes a sports equipment rack. The invention includes both a fixed frame and a removable basket, which provides support for equipment of a variety of sports. The fixed frame includes bat retainers for supporting a plurality of bats and parallel guide members for removable supporting balls such as basketballs, soccer balls, etc. The device is cumbersome and uses too much space unnecessarily.~~

~~The present invention relates to devices for holding sports equipment and keeping them organized while utilizing little or unused space. Specifically, the present invention relates to an adjustable/collapsible hanging yet portable device for keeping basketballs, soccer balls, footballs, and kickball equipment neatly stored and readily available when needed.~~

~~BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION~~

~~The invention is directed to an adjustable apparatus for holding sports-related equipment for a home or retail usage while hanging from a ceiling or a wall. The object of the invention is to provide adequate and assessable storage for sports equipment while allowing the user to maintain current floor space. The adjustable holder and dispenser is unique in its utility due to the ability it has to adjust to the users current space while not taking up premium floor space.~~

~~The adjustable sports holder comprises of a tubular embodiment that can be hung from a hanging device from a ceiling or wall. The elongated body is formed of a flexible material. The front of the invention is equipped with an opening for obtaining and~~

~~inserting sports equipment. The bottom-most end of the said invention is formed of a singular piece of flexible material, which may be independent of the upper embodiment material, utilizing a circular opening with material elastic lining that retains the sports equipment when inserted into the upper opening.~~

~~The user expands the elastic opening when dispensing sports equipment and allows the elastic to contract again when the user wants the apparatus to retain the sports equipment currently held. The said invention also provides means to accommodate holding multiple sports paraphernalia like ball pins and an air pump.~~

~~Utilizing one or more flexible elongated member such as string/cord attached onto the bottom-most of the tubular embodiment material, the said cords line along the body, to the top of the apparatus to be utilized as a pulley type instrument to allow the collapsible material to be adjusted in size. The said flexible member can be attached to the outside body by multiple means of fastening devices to secure the collapsed holder in its adjusted state.~~

~~The adjustable holder is portable and lightweight in design, allowing the user to move the apparatus when desired. The adjustable holder can be used inside and outside of the home. The device can easily fit and adjust into a corner of a bedroom, closet, garage, or laundry room.~~

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING

~~FIG. 1 is the front side perspective view holding ball of the adjustable hanging sports equipment holder and dispenser.~~

~~FIG. 2 is the backside perspective view holding ball of the adjustable hanging sports equipment holder and dispenser.~~

~~FIG. 3 is the front side view of the adjustable hanging sports equipment holder and dispenser in partially collapsed state~~

~~FIG. 4 is the front side view of the adjustable hanging sports equipment holder and dispenser in fully collapsed state~~

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a new and advantageous device for storing athletic equipment in your home especially the equipment associated with the game of basketball, soccer, football and kickball.

Referring to the various figures and in particular FIG 1, set forth is the Adjustable Hanging Sports Equipment Holder, for the storage and retention of sports equipment 18.

The said invention provides one or more circular rings 6 made from polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or metal, inserted into the ring are one or more separate flexible elongated members such as a rope 8 mirrored in length. Attached to the end of the said flexible material is at least one or more hooking device 4. The said hook device is then attached to the end of the stated flexible material and each hook device is inserted into the eyelet openings 28 embedded into the top border material 20. Inserted into the uppermost and bottom most region of the border material of the said invention are a plurality of circular hoops 30, made of a smooth plastic such as polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or a metal such as brass, aluminum, or iron. The said hoops would assist the embodied material in giving it its cylindrical or tubular structured shape.

The elongated tubular embodiment of the said invention is formed from a formable flexible material such as mesh or netting 14.

Located in the front of the apparatus, a circular opening 12 is formed and fitted with the said flexible border material 4. The opening is utilized for the insertion and obtaining of sports equipment.

The sports holder is equipped to adjust in length utilizing one or more flexible member materials 2. The flexible material 2 is lined upward along the tubular body of the apparatus, and inserted through the upper circular ring 6 and back downward attaching to the tubular body. As the user pulls downward on the flexible member material 2, attached to the bottommost end of the apparatus, the embodiment material 14 draws upward and reduces the apparatus in size, creating a shorter ball holder.

Referring to the various figures and in particular FIG 2 set forth is the rear view of the Adjustable Hanging Sports Equipment Holder. The rear of the invention is outfitted with a vertical opening utilizing various forms of fasteners 22 either the length of the

~~tubular embodiment or shorter. The upper rear portion of the said invention is outfitted with an elongated piece of the stated border material 26 attached onto the upper portion of the apparatus border to accommodate air pumping device.~~

~~Attached onto the body of the invention is a pocket 24 of a formable flexible material, utilized to house small sporting paraphernalia.~~

~~The bottom open end of the said invention is formed of a singular piece of flexible material 14 or may be independent of the upper embodiment material. An elongated elastic material 10 is attached to the bottom of the flexible material 14 to form a circular opening. This elasticized opening 10 allows the user to obtain said sports equipment when expanded, and said elastic opening also retains sports equipment when contracted.~~

~~Referring to FIG. 3 is the front side view of the adjustable hanging sports equipment holder and dispenser in partially collapsed state with sport ball 18 inside.~~

~~Referring to FIG. 4 is the front side view of the adjustable hanging sports equipment holder and dispenser in fully collapsed state holding sport ball 18.~~

SPORTS EQUIPMENT ACCESSORY

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to devices for holding sports equipment and keeping them organized while utilizing little or unused space. Specifically, the present invention relates to an adjustable/collapsible hanging, yet portable, device for keeping basketballs, soccer balls, footballs, and kickball equipment neatly stored and readily available when needed.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Sporting equipment can create an undesirable mess if not kept neatly organized. The task of organizing sports equipment in one's home can be a very challenging one. At home, a closet is often used to store basketballs or footballs. Consequently, the contents

of the closet become a hazard as the basketball, football and other contents spill out of the closet when the door is opened. An adjustable elevated device for storing sports balls, whether at home, or in a garage, would serve to prevent tripping or related accidents as well as provide a more organized and efficient manner of storage.

[0003] In an effort to address the need for a more efficient storage of sports related balls, particularly, a number of equipment racks have been developed. These inventions focus on support devices in which the sports equipment is placed on the rack. The device is then dependent on gravity to keep the balls in place; if the ball or device is jarred the ball easily falls off. These inventions do not provide a secure holding device for a ball.

[0004] U.S. Pat No. 5,813,550 discloses a storage rack with threaded pegs. It includes a compact base with two or more pairs of peg holes and two or more pegs that may be inserted into a second pair of holes. While this invention provides a means for storing various items, it does not address the need for storing basketballs, footballs and the like.

[0005] Likewise, U.S., Pat No. 5,335,794 discloses a sports equipment rack. The invention includes both a fixed frame and a removable basket, which provides support for equipment of a variety of sports. The fixed frame includes bat retainers for supporting a plurality of bats and parallel guide members for removable supporting balls such as basketballs, soccer balls, etc. The device is cumbersome and uses too much space unnecessarily.

[0006] The foregoing patent and other information reflect the state of the art of which the inventor is aware and are tendered with a view toward discharging the inventor's acknowledged duty of candor in disclosing information that may be pertinent to the patentability of the present invention. It is respectfully stipulated, however, that the foregoing patent and other information do not teach or render obvious, singly or when considered in combination, the inventor's claimed invention.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] The general purpose of the present invention, which will be described subsequently in greater detail, is to provide an adjustable apparatus for holding sports related equipment for a home or retail usage while hanging from a ceiling or a wall. An object of the invention is to provide adequate and assessable storage for sports equipment while allowing the user to maintain current floor space. The adjustable holder and dispenser is unique in its utility due to the ability it has to adjust to the user's current space while not taking up premium floor space.

[0008] The preferred embodiment of the present invention has an elongated tubular body and is operable for hanging from a ceiling or wall. The elongated body is formed of a flexible, collapsible material. The front of the present invention has an elastic opening for inserting and retrieving sports equipment. The bottom most end of the present invention is formed of a singular piece of flexible material.

[0009] The user expands the front elastic opening when dispensing sports equipment and allows the elastic to contract again when the user wants the present invention to

retain the sports equipment currently being held. The present invention can also accommodate holding multiple sports paraphernalia like ball pins and an air pump.

[0010] Utilizing one or more flexible elongated members such as a string/cord attached to the bottom most of the tubular material, the cords are disposed within a channel along the tubular material, from the bottom to the top of the present invention to allow the collapsible material to be adjusted in size. The flexible elongated members can be attached to the outside body by various fastening devices to hold the collapsed holder in its adjusted state.

[0011] The adjustable holder is portable and lightweight in design, allowing the user to move the apparatus when desired. The adjustable holder can be used inside and outside of the home. The device can easily fit and adjust into a corner of a bedroom, closet, garage, or laundry room.

[0012] There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed description thereof that follows may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto. In this respect, before explaining at least one embodiment of the invention in detail, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and to the arrangements of the components set forth in the following description or illustrated in the drawings. The invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced and

carried out in various ways. Also, it is to be understood that the phraseology and terminology employed herein are for the purpose of description and should not be regarded as limiting.

[0013] As such, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the conception, upon which this disclosure is based, may readily be utilized as a basis for the designing of other structures, methods and systems for carrying out the several purposes of the present invention. It is important, therefore, that the claims be regarded as including such equivalent constructions insofar as they do not depart from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

[0014] Further objects and advantages of the present invention will be apparent from the following detailed description of a presently preferred embodiment which is illustrated schematically in the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

[0015] Other advantages and features of the invention are described with reference to exemplary embodiments, which are intended to explain and not to limit the invention, and are illustrated in the drawings in which:

[0016] FIG. 1 shows a front perspective view of a sports equipment accessory fully extended and holding a single sports ball according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

[0017] FIG. 2 shows a back perspective view of a sports equipment accessory fully extended and holding a single sports ball according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

[0018] FIG. 3 shows a front perspective view of a sports equipment accessory in a partially collapsed state and holding a single sports ball according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

[0019] FIG. 4 shows a front perspective view of a sports equipment accessory in a fully collapsed state and holding a single sports ball according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0020] Before explaining the disclosed embodiment of the present invention in detail it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of the particular arrangement shown since the invention is capable of other embodiments. Also, the terminology used herein is for the purpose of description and not of limitation.

[0021] The present invention provides a new and advantageous device for storing athletic equipment in your home especially the equipment associated with the game of basketball, soccer, football and kickball. The parts list for the present invention includes the following:

- Flexible member 2
- Hooking device 4

- Circular ring 6
- Rope 8
- Elastic material 10
- Circular opening 12
- Mesh 14
- Adjustable cord fastener end 16
- Sports equipment 18
- Top border material 20
- Fastener 22
- Pocket 24
- Elongated Piece of Border material 26
- Eyelet opening 28
- Circular hoop 30

[0022] Referring to FIG. 1, sports equipment 18 is shown within a preferred embodiment of the present invention. One or more of rope 8 is inserted into circular ring 6. Circular ring 6 is preferably made from polyvinyl chloride (PVC), but may be made of metal. Attached to the each end of each rope 8 is at least one hooking device 4. Hooking device 4 is then inserted into eyelet opening 28, which is embedded into top border material 20. Inserted into the uppermost and bottom most region of the border material of the present invention are a plurality of circular hoop 30, made of a smooth plastic such as polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or a metal such as brass, aluminum, or iron. Each circular hoop 30 helps form mesh 14 into a cylindrical or tubular structured shape.

[0023] The elongated tube of the present invention is formed from mesh 14. Located in the front of the apparatus, circular opening 12 is located on the front side of the present invention and is formed in mesh 4. Circular opening 12 is used for the insertion and retrieval of sports equipment 18.

[0024] The present invention is operable for adjustment in length by utilizing one or more flexible member 2. Flexible member 2 is lined upward along the tubular body of the present invention and inserted through circular hoop 30 and back downward attaching to the tubular body. As the user pulls downward on flexible member 2, attached to the bottommost end of the apparatus, mesh 14 draws upward and reduces the present invention in size, thus creating a shorter holder of sports equipment.

[0025] Referring to FIG. 2, the back side of the present invention is outfitted with a vertical opening utilizing various forms of fastener 22 either the entire length of the present invention or less than the full length of the present invention. The upper back portion of the present invention is outfitted with elongated piece of border material 26 attached onto the upper portion of top border material 20 to accommodate an air-pumping device. This forms a tubular structure for insertion of an air-pumping device.

[0026] Attached onto the body of the present invention is pocket 24, preferably made of a formable flexible material, used to house small sporting paraphernalia.

[0027] An elongated piece of elastic material 10 is attached to the bottom of mesh 14 to form a bottom circular opening. Elastic material 10 allows the user to obtain said sports

equipment when elastic material 10 is expanded, and elastic material 10 also retains sports equipment when it contracts. At least one of adjustable cord fastener end 16 is attached to flexible member 2 by the method of sewing or fabric bonding. The purpose of adjustable cord fastener end 16, which is affixed to the user end of flexible member 2 is to give the user the ability to adjust and hold the present invention to the length desired by the user. Adjustable cord fastener end 16 can be either Velcroed, snapped, hooked, or buttoned to the body of the present invention. When the user pulls downward on the adjustable cords the bottom of the holder goes upward. This is an additional way to secure the desired length of the holder.

[0028] Referring to FIG. 3, mesh 14 is shown in a partially collapsed state with sport equipment 18 inside the present invention.

[0029] Referring to FIG. 4, the present invention is shown in a fully collapsed state with sport equipment 18 inside.

[0030] Although the invention has been described herein with specific reference to a presently preferred and additional embodiments thereof, it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that various modifications, deletions, and alterations may be made to such preferred embodiment without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Accordingly, it is intended that all reasonably foreseeable additions, modifications, deletions and alterations be included within the scope of the invention as defined in the following claims.

SPORTS EQUIPMENT ACCESSORY

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to devices for holding sports equipment and keeping them organized while utilizing little or unused space. Specifically, the present invention relates to an adjustable/collapsible hanging, yet portable, device for keeping basketballs, soccer balls, footballs, and kickball equipment neatly stored and readily available when needed.

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[0003] In an effort to address the need for a more efficient storage of sports related balls, particularly, a number of equipment racks have been developed. These inventions focus on support devices in which the sports equipment is placed on the rack. The device is then dependent on gravity to keep the balls in place; if the ball or device is jarred the ball easily falls off. These inventions do not provide a secure holding device for a ball.

[0004] U.S. Pat No. 5,813,550 discloses a storage rack with threaded pegs. It includes a compact base with two or more pairs of peg holes and two or more pegs that may be inserted into a second pair of holes. While this invention provides a means for storing various items, it does not address the need for storing basketballs, footballs and the like.

[0005] Likewise, U.S., Pat No. 5,335,794 discloses a sports equipment rack. The invention includes both a fixed frame and a removable basket, which provides support for equipment of a variety of sports. The fixed frame includes bat retainers for supporting a plurality of bats and parallel guide members for removable supporting balls such as basketballs, soccer balls, etc. The device is cumbersome and uses too much space unnecessarily.

[0006] The foregoing patent and other information reflect the state of the art of which the inventor is aware and are tendered with a view toward discharging the inventor's acknowledged duty of candor in disclosing information that may be pertinent to the patentability of the present invention. It is respectfully stipulated, however, that the foregoing patent and other information do not teach or render obvious, singly or when considered in combination, the inventor's claimed invention.

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while allowing the user to maintain current floor space. The adjustable holder and dispenser is unique in its utility due to the ability it has to adjust to the user's current space while not taking up premium floor space.

[0008] The preferred embodiment of the present invention has an elongated tubular body and is operable for hanging from a ceiling or wall. The elongated body is formed of a flexible, collapsible material. The front of the present invention has an elastic opening for inserting and retrieving sports equipment. The bottom most end of the present invention is formed of a singular piece of flexible material.

[0009] The user expands the front elastic opening when dispensing sports equipment and allows the elastic to contract again when the user wants the present invention to retain the sports equipment currently being held. The present invention can also accommodate holding multiple sports paraphernalia like ball pins and an air pump.

[0010] Utilizing one or more flexible elongated members such as a string/cord attached to the bottom most of the tubular material, the cords are disposed within a channel along the tubular material, from the bottom to the top of the present invention to allow the collapsible material to be adjusted in size. The flexible elongated members can be attached to the outside body by various fastening devices to hold the collapsed holder in its adjusted state.

[0011] The adjustable holder is portable and lightweight in design, allowing the user to move the apparatus when desired. The adjustable holder can be used inside and outside

of the home. The device can easily fit and adjust into a corner of a bedroom, closet, garage, or laundry room.

[0012] There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed description thereof that follows may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto. In this respect, before explaining at least one embodiment of the invention in detail, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and to the arrangements of the components set forth in the following description or illustrated in the drawings. The invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced and carried out in various ways. Also, it is to be understood that the phraseology and terminology employed herein are for the purpose of description and should not be regarded as limiting.

[0013] As such, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the conception, upon which this disclosure is based, may readily be utilized as a basis for the designing of other structures, methods and systems for carrying out the several purposes of the present invention. It is important, therefore, that the claims be regarded as including such equivalent constructions insofar as they do not depart from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

[0014] Further objects and advantages of the present invention will be apparent from

the following detailed description of a presently preferred embodiment which is illustrated schematically in the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

[0015] Other advantages and features of the invention are described with reference to exemplary embodiments, which are intended to explain and not to limit the invention, and are illustrated in the drawings in which:

[0016] FIG. 1 shows a front perspective view of a sports equipment accessory fully extended and holding a single sports ball according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

[0017] FIG. 2 shows a back perspective view of a sports equipment accessory fully extended and holding a single sports ball according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

[0018] FIG. 3 shows a front perspective view of a sports equipment accessory in a partially collapsed state and holding a single sports ball according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

[0019] FIG. 4 shows a front perspective view of a sports equipment accessory in a fully collapsed state and holding a single sports ball according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0020] Before explaining the disclosed embodiment of the present invention in detail it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of the particular arrangement shown since the invention is capable of other embodiments. Also, the terminology used herein is for the purpose of description and not of limitation.

[0021] The present invention provides a new and advantageous device for storing athletic equipment in your home especially the equipment associated with the game of basketball, soccer, football and kickball. The parts list for the present invention includes the following:

- Flexible member 2
- Hooking device 4
- Circular ring 6
- Rope 8
- Elastic material 10
- Circular opening 12
- Mesh 14
- Adjustable cord fastener end 16
- Sports equipment 18
- Top border material 20
- Fastener 22
- Pocket 24
- Elongated Piece of Border material 26
- Eyelet opening 28

- Circular hoop 30

[0022] Referring to FIG. 1, sports equipment 18 is shown within a preferred embodiment of the present invention. One or more of rope 8 is inserted into circular ring 6. Circular ring 6 is preferably made from polyvinyl chloride (PVC), but may be made of metal. Attached to the each end of each rope 8 is at least one hooking device 4. Hooking device 4 is then inserted into eyelet opening 28, which is embedded into top border material 20. Inserted into the uppermost and bottom most region of the border material of the present invention are a plurality of circular hoop 30, made of a smooth plastic such as polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or a metal such as brass, aluminum, or iron. Each circular hoop 30 helps form mesh 14 into a cylindrical or tubular structured shape.

[0023] The elongated tube of the present invention is formed from mesh 14. Located in the front of the apparatus, circular opening 12 is located on the front side of the present invention and is formed in mesh 4. Circular opening 12 is used for the insertion and retrieval of sports equipment 18.

[0024] The present invention is operable for adjustment in length by utilizing one or more flexible member 2. Flexible member 2 is lined upward along the tubular body of the present invention and inserted through circular hoop 30 and back downward attaching to the tubular body. As the user pulls downward on flexible member 2, attached to the bottommost end of the apparatus, mesh 14 draws upward and reduces the present invention in size, thus creating a shorter holder of sports equipment.

[0025] Referring to FIG. 2, the back side of the present invention is outfitted with a vertical opening utilizing various forms of fastener 22 either the entire length of the present invention or less than the full length of the present invention. The upper back portion of the present invention is outfitted with elongated piece of border material 26 attached onto the upper portion of top border material 20 to accommodate an air-pumping device. This forms a tubular structure for insertion of an air-pumping device.

[0026] Attached onto the body of the present invention is pocket 24, preferably made of a formable flexible material, used to house small sporting paraphernalia.

[0027] An elongated piece of elastic material 10 is attached to the bottom of mesh 14 to form a bottom circular opening. Elastic material 10 allows the user to obtain said sports equipment when elastic material 10 is expanded, and elastic material 10 also retains sports equipment when it contracts. At least one of adjustable cord fastener end 16 is attached to flexible member 2 by the method of sewing or fabric bonding. The purpose of adjustable cord fastener end 16, which is affixed to the user end of flexible member 2 is to give the user the ability to adjust and hold the present invention to the length desired by the user. Adjustable cord fastener end 16 can be either Velcroed, snapped, hooked, or buttoned to the body of the present invention. When the user pulls downward on the adjustable cords the bottom of the holder goes upward. This is an additional way to secure the desired length of the holder.

[0028] Referring to FIG. 3, mesh 14 is shown in a partially collapsed state with sport equipment 18 inside the present invention.

[0029] Referring to FIG. 4, the present invention is shown in a fully collapsed state with sport equipment 18 inside.

[0030] Although the invention has been described herein with specific reference to a presently preferred and additional embodiments thereof, it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that various modifications, deletions, and alterations may be made to such preferred embodiment without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Accordingly, it is intended that all reasonably foreseeable additions, modifications, deletions and alterations be included within the scope of the invention as defined in the following claims.